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REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF
INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES
AND PEOPLES

ANGUILLA

Working paper prepared by the Secretariat

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ANGUILLA 1/

I. GENERAL

1. Anguilla lies 240 kilometres east of Puerto Rico, 113 kilometres north-west of Saint Kitts and Nevis and 8 kilometres north of St. Maarten/Saint-Martin. The Territory has a total land mass of 96 square kilometres and includes several offshore islets. The main island has a maximum length of 26 kilometres and a maximum width of 5 kilometres. There is no dominant urban area in Anguilla, although certain areas are more densely settled than others. The government headquarters and the main settlement area are located in the Valley.

2. According to the latest statistical estimate, the population of Anguilla in 1994 was 10,300. 2/

II. CONSTITUTIONAL AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

A. Constitution

3. An outline of the Anguilla (Constitution) Order, 1982, is given in the report of the United Nations Visiting Mission to Anguilla, 1984 (A/AC.109/799, paras. 19-27) and a previous working paper on the Territory prepared by the Secretariat (A/AC.109/1181, paras. 5 and 6). A detailed account of the main points and questions raised in the report of the Constitution Review Committee appointed by the Governor is contained in the 1989 working paper on Anguilla (see A/AC.109/975, paras. 15 and 16; see also A/AC.109/975/Add.1, annex).

B. Political parties and elections

4. Information on political parties and elections is contained in the previous working paper prepared by the Secretariat (A/AC.109/2016, para. 5).

C. Civil service

5. Information on the composition of the Anguillan public service is contained in a previous working paper prepared by the Secretariat (A/AC.109/1181, para. 13).

6. According to National Accounts Statistics, 1994 of Anguilla, the central government expenditure constituted 19.6 per cent of Anguilla's gross domestic product (GDP), with personal emoluments, pensions and gratuities of civil servants being the largest component (approximately 13 per cent of GDP). 3/

III. ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

A. General

7. General information on Anguilla's development objectives is contained in the previous working paper prepared by the Secretariat (A/AC.109/2016, para. 8).

8. In 1994, the economy of Anguilla continued to record another year of healthy growth of over 8 per cent. The real GDP increased to EC$ 150.65 million, 4/ compared with EC$ 139.09 million recorded for 1993. 5/ While the improved growth performance in all the key sectors of the economy contributed to the higher level of aggregate output, strong performance in the tourism sector continued to be the main thrust and stimulus for overall output expansion. 5/

B. Public finance

9. The continued expansion of the aggregate output was accompanied by encouraging development in fiscal performance, with the central government budget operations producing a surplus of EC$ 3.7 million in 1994 as compared with EC$ 2.2 million recorded in 1993.

10. Recurrent revenue increased by 17 per cent to EC$ 36.1 million in 1994, compared with EC$ 30.7 million in 1993. The major revenue growth areas continued to be in tourism-related taxes and taxes on international trade and transactions. Buoyed by the continued growth in tourist arrivals, the accommodation taxes rose by 11.2 per cent while embarkation taxes expanded by a much faster rate of 23.3 per cent reflecting the upward revision of rates introduced during the year.

11. Recurrent expenditure in 1994 rose by 13.3 per cent to EC$ 32.2 million from EC$ 28.5 million in 1993, owing primarily to the increased obligations in terms of insurance for all public servants implemented late in 1993. Inclusion of public servants appointed prior to 1982 in the social security scheme resulted in increased social security contributions from the Government during 1994. 6/

12. Several economic and social projects were financed where funding was not available from external sources, and there was some capital expenditure involved in counterpart funding for externally funded projects as well. There was 40 per cent growth in aid provided by the administering Power during 1994, directed primarily towards projects such as a new post office, police marine base, primary school rehabilitation, and a new library and resource centre. 7/

C. Agriculture, livestock and fisheries

13. General information on the Territory's agriculture is contained in the previous working paper prepared by the Secretariat (A/AC.109/2016, paras. 14 and 15).

14. Anguilla's agricultural sector consists mainly of small-scale farming and livestock raising for the local market, but the sector is expected to grow as tourist demand for local produce increases. Primary exports are lobsters, fish and livestock, with principal crops including peas, sweet potatoes, okra and corn.

15. Following a decline of almost 9 per cent in 1993, there was an upturn in overall agricultural output during 1994, attributed to substantial growth in the crop and livestock subsectors. The Government is committed to the strategic objective of developing output potential in the agricultural sector as part of its overall programme for diversifying the economic base, and reducing over-dependence on food imports. Annual food imports, consisting mainly of farm products, continued to expand in 1994 with an increase to EC$ 12.33 million, compared with EC$ 11.68 million in 1993. 8/

16. Agricultural activities during 1994 included the expansion of the drip irrigation system, promotion of commercial fruit production, horticultural development and backyard gardening. Other activities centred around the commercial development of poultry farming, rabbit production and bee keeping.

17. The level of overall output of the fisheries subsector expanded by more than 4 per cent during 1994, after a decline of approximately 12 per cent the previous year, contributing to the value of merchandise exports. 7/

D. Industrial development

18. Information on industrial development is contained in the previous working paper prepared by the Secretariat (A/AC.109/2016, paras. 19 and 20).

E. Transport, communications and other basic facilities

19. Information on transport, communications and other basic facilities is contained in the previous working paper prepared by the Secretariat (A/AC.109/2016, paras. 21 and 22).

20. The electricity and water sector contracted marginally in 1994. There was a decline of over 3 per cent in real output which was attributed to a slight decline in the level of power generation. 5/

F. Property and real estate development

21. Following a sharp decline of about 15 per cent in 1993, construction activities during 1994 remained stable at the previous year's level with the implementation of the new library and resource centre, the ongoing Anguilla Water Development Project in the public sector and the completion of a new shopping complex in the Valley, construction of a new building for the Caribbean Commercial Bank and work on a new hotel project in the Rendezvous area in the private sector. 5/

G. Banking and insurance

22. Information on banking and insurance is contained in the previous working paper prepared by the Secretariat (A/AC.109/2016, para. 25).

H. Environment

23. The draft country environmental profile to be funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), received in 1994, was under the consideration of the Government of Anguilla. In November 1994, the Governor of Anguilla reaffirmed in his address to the second session of the sixth Anguilla House of Assembly his Government's commitment to supporting non-governmental organizations and private sector initiatives in the areas of environmental research, environmental education and marine conservation. 9/

24. The island was making rapid recovery in the aftermath of hurricane "Luis", which caused substantial damage to hotels and other facilities.

I. International business

25. The Government of Anguilla enacted a package of financial legislation in 1994 as it continued its drive to develop the jurisdiction as a viable offshore domicile and well-regulated financial centre for bona fide investors. This includes modern company and trust laws, as well as partnership and insurance legislation.

26. During 1995, the Government announced a new marketing strategy for the offshore sector, which had shown an increase of 23 per cent in registered companies during 1994. 7/ There was substantial progress in the ongoing project to computerize the company registry system, to include on-line registration of companies and remote filing for both local and overseas agents. Once completed, the system is expected to enhance the marketability of the financial services industry.

J. Tourism

27. The tourism sector, which contributes almost 38 per cent to country revenues, expanded significantly in 1994, with tourist expenditures totalling US$ 51.0 million, up from US$ 43.3 million in 1993. This was due primarily to the continued strong growth (24 per cent) recorded for winter tourist expenditures, which accounted for over 50 per cent of the total. Overall visitor arrivals grew by 13 per cent, reaching 125,780 in 1994. This represented a 16.1 per cent increase in the number of stopover arrivals, while day visitor arrivals grew by 11.4 per cent. 10/

28. Visitors from the United States of America continued to dominate Anguilla's tourist market during 1994, accounting for 66 per cent of tourist arrivals. The Caribbean again constituted the second largest share, at 23 per cent, and the

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Canada accounting for 6.3 and 2.7 per cent of the market share, respectively. 10/

29. A new Tourist Board was established in 1994 and took over administrative and financial responsibilities for the sector. The Board is expected to contribute significantly to Anguilla's marketing efforts through increased mobilization of resources to finance promotional activities, and the implementation of a strategic tourism marketing plan developed by a consultancy under the European Union-financed Caribbean Tourism Development Programme. This plan is designed to improve the overall viability of the tourism sector by reducing seasonability, broadening the source market base, and improving occupancy rate. It also complements the Tourism Promotion and Development Project, which has already been launched with funds provided by the United Kingdom.

K. Country Policy Plan

30. A summary of the Country Policy Plan is contained in previous working papers prepared by the Secretariat (A/AC.109/1181, paras. 67-74; and A/AC.109/2016, para. 38). In July 1994, a mid-year review of the Plan was undertaken by the Dependent Territories Regional Secretariat, the British Development Division and the Government of Anguilla. An aid package of EC$ 13.75 million was agreed upon for expenditure during the financial year 1994/95 to include the following projects: Library Learning Resource Centre (EC$ 2.2 million); airport improvement (EC$ 4.9 million); technical cooperation (EC$ 3.8 million); prison development (EC$ 0.75 million); Courthouse/Parliament Building (EC$ 1.5 million); and Technical Cooperation Regional Programme (EC$ 0.6 million). 11/

IV. SOCIAL CONDITIONS

31. A summary of the social conditions in the Territory is contained in the previous working paper prepared by the Secretariat (A/AC.109/2016, paras. 39-43).

V. PUBLIC EDUCATION

32. A summary of public education in the Territory is contained in the previous working paper prepared by the Secretariat (A/AC.109/2016, paras. 44 and 45).

VI. PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS/ ARRANGEMENTS

33. An overview of the development assistance provided to the Territory by the organizations of the United Nations system, mainly by UNDP, is contained in the previous working paper on Anguilla prepared by the Secretariat (A/AC.109/2016/Add.1).

34. The Government of Anguilla cooperates directly with other Caribbean Governments, and participates in regional conferences and projects organized by Governments and regional and international organizations and agencies. The Territory is a member of the Caribbean Development Bank, the University of the West Indies and the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank, and holds observer status in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States. The Territory is represented at the annual meetings of the Caribbean Group for Cooperation in Economic Development, sponsored by the World Bank.

VII. FUTURE STATUS OF THE TERRITORY

35. The position of the administering Power towards its dependent Territories, including Anguilla, is summarized in previous working papers prepared by the Secretariat (A/AC.109/1137, para. 17; A/AC.109/1180, paras. 30-36). For statements during the fiftieth session of the General Assembly, see document A/AC.109/2043, paragraphs 41-43.

36. On 6 December 1995, the General Assembly adopted resolution 50/38 B, a consolidated resolution on 12 Non-Self-Governing Territories, section 2 of which was specifically devoted to Anguilla.

Notes

1/ The information contained in the present paper has been derived from published reports and from information transmitted to the Secretary-General by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations on 5 September 1995. The facts and figures presented in the working paper are the latest information available.

2/ 1996 Caribbean Basin Commercial Profile, p. 52.

3/ Government of Anguilla, National Accounts Statistics, 1994, p. 17, table 17.

4/ The currency of the Territory is the East Caribbean dollar (EC$). One United States dollar (US$ 1.00) is equivalent to EC$ 2.70.

5/ Government of Anguilla, National Accounts Statistics, 1994, p. II.

6/ Ibid., p. III-IV.

7/ 1996 Caribbean Basin Commercial Profile, p. 51.

8/ Government of Anguilla, National Accounts Statistics, 1994, p. II; 1996 Caribbean Basin Commercial Profile, p. 51.

9/ Address by the Governor to the sixth Anguilla House of Assembly at its second session, on 4 November 1994 (mimeographed), p. 16.

10/ 1996 Caribbean Basin Commercial Profile, p. 51 and Government of Anguilla, Statistical Review of Tourism, 1994, p. i.

11/ Address by the Governor to the sixth Anguilla House of Assembly at its second session, on 4 November 1994 (mimeographed), p. 24.